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GOVERNOR

HAROLD LEGGETT, PHD
SECRETARY

**Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality
Office of Environmental Assessment
Laboratory Services Division**

IMMEDIATE ATTENTION REQUIRED

April 16, 2008

AI # Agency Interest Number

LELAP Certificate Number

Laboratory Director
LDEQ LELAP Accredited Laboratory
Applicable Address
Applicable City, State Zip Code

RE: 2008 Accreditation and the 2007-2008 EPA Water Methods Update Rule (MUR)

Dear Laboratory Director:

Last year on April 16, 2007 the Louisiana Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Program (LELAP) Office informed your laboratory by letter that, due to the changes in Federal Regulations, each LELAP-accredited laboratory shall ensure that their scope of accreditation included all of the methods needed to meet the new MUR regulatory requirements. The letter identified the significant changes in the list of EPA-approved tests and sampling procedures under the Clean Water Act and the National Drinking Water Regulations.

In 2007, two separate revisions to 40 CFR 136 were published in the Federal Register. They were referred to collectively as the Methods Update Rule (MUR). The full text of the Final Rules can be downloaded from the following links:

- Federal Register / Vol. 72, No. 47 / Monday, March 12, 2007 / Rules and Regulations
<http://www.epa.gov/fedrgstr/EPA-WATER/2007/March/Day-12/w1073.pdf>
- Federal Register / Vol. 72, No. 57 / Monday, March 26, 2007 / Rules and Regulations
<http://www.epa.gov/fedrgstr/EPA-WATER/2007/March/Day-26/w1455.pdf>

This letter is to announce that the MUR shall be implemented by LDEQ LELAP on May 14, 2008 in accordance with the following guidelines:

1. Each LELAP Lab **must review their scopes of accreditation to determine whether it will be necessary to request a written change** to include any of the newly-approved methods.
2. All requests for **changes** in the scope of accreditation **shall be submitted to LELAP in writing**. Once requested changes have been received from LELAP Labs, they will be approved as follows:

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- a. If the laboratory is currently accredited for an analyte by a method that uses the same technology as a 2007- approved method, then the new method may be added to the scope of accreditation upon written request.
- b. If the laboratory was not accredited for a method that uses the same technology as the new method, then the new method can not be added until after the laboratory has requested in writing and subsequently has been assessed for that method.
- c. Laboratories can continue to maintain accreditation for older methods until no longer needed and/or until such time as they receive LELAP accreditation for new methods.
- d. For those labs that were eligible to be accredited for new methods, the type of accreditation granted (NELAP or LELAP/STATE) will be determined as follows:

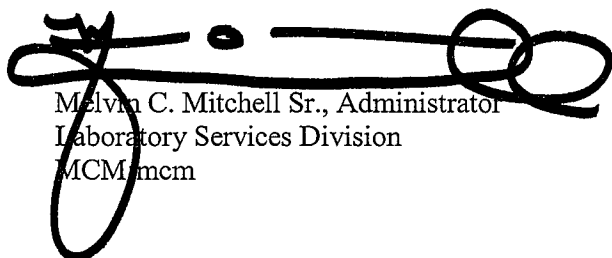
(i) If LELAP is the Primary Accreditation Body (AB), then LELAP will grant the same type of accreditation for new methods as previously granted for old methods.

(ii) If LELAP is a Secondary AB **and** the Primary AB has granted accreditation for the new method, then LELAP will grant the same type of accreditation for the new method as that granted by the Primary AB.

(iii) If LELAP is a Secondary AB for the old method, but the Primary AB has not yet granted accreditation for the new method, then LDEQ will grant temporary LELAP Louisiana "STATE" accreditation for the new method. This temporary accreditation was to remain in effect until June 30, 2008, after which time the laboratory will have to be accredited by the Primary AB in order to retain accreditation for that method in Louisiana.

3. Many LELAP laboratories have not requested accreditation for the new methods and written requests must be submitted as soon as possible, but no later than May 13, 2008. The LELAP staff will work with each laboratory on a case-by-case basis to avoid any lapse in the LELAP/NELAP coverage. If you have any questions regarding laboratory accreditation, please contact Paul Bergeron, LDEQ Laboratory Services Division, OEA at (225) 219-9800. All questions regarding LDEQ permit related issues should be directed to Gary Aydell, Water Permits Division, OES, (225) 219-3002.

Sincerely,



Melvin C. Mitchell Sr., Administrator
Laboratory Services Division
MCM/mcm

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